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pains to get the proper effect of a pattern. The best design may develop unforeseen defects when executed in the mass; and the art lies not so much in detecting them as in the ready resource which is able to devise a remedy. For instance, a pattern will perhaps come out hard and stiff in the printing, and some such device as over-printing parts of it with a wash tint, or otherwise according to circumstances, may be the only thing needful for pulling a pattern together—may, in fact, prove to be the making of the thing."

"What do you say of the relative merits of the craft in the two countries, England and America?"

"In my opinion, we are decidedly superior. In the case of



"WOOD NOTES" FRIEZE.

the design I made for an American order the blockcutters out there had serious misgivings as to whether they should be able to execute my cartoon; and so I had to furnish a duplicate set of drawings in black and white, with sharp lines, and all in exact precision for the guidance of the cutters."

"What was the design in question?"

"It was one that was drawn specially with a view to exhibition at Chicago. The scheme comprised allegorical figures, ships, etc., representing the four quarters of the globe."

"That sounds as though it was rather elaborate."

"Well, not more so than the majority of my designs for Messrs. Jeffrey & Co. Speaking generally, it does not seem to have been worth anyone's while in America to cultivate the art of wall-paper design and manufacture as we have done in this country."

"What of such artists as Mr. Tiffany or Mr. John La Farge? Are they not general decorators?"

"Yes; and of course, like our English decorative artists, they undertake various branches of design, paper hangings among others, I believe; but these men are exceptions to the ordinary rule, and the whole thing is on a totally different footing in America. With them decoration appears to be simply and solely a matter of business, and the American artists themselves regard and speak of it as such quite frankly."

#### CARING FOR THE WINDOWS.

By A. ASHMUN KELLY.

F necessary to economize in some direction when building the home, let it not be on the windows. There is nothing that makes the exterior so attractive as beautiful plate glass windows, nor is more real pleasure and satisfaction derived from any part of the building than from that of the well-constructed and lighted window. The window is the eye of the house, and as a bright, beautiful eye in a human being makes even a homely face attractive, so does a beautiful window beautify the entire house, however humble its construction. And what more trying to the eyes and to the patience than lights of glass that are full of imperfections? Just now window glass is very cheap, and the lowest priced house ought to have at least the best double thick window glass in its windows all over the house. This is economy,

too, because the greater thickness insures more largely against breakage. In the lower or first floor rooms, except the kitchen, plate glass might be afforded by persons of limited means: They are so strong and durable, and withal so bright and rich-looking, that no one can regret putting them in. The cost of plate glass is not great. The French and domestic glasses are the same in price, at this writing, and while there is a difference in the two kinds, it is of no material consequence, and only an expert can detect it. You could not. The American plate glass is of a silvery white color, due to its being made with natural gas, while the foreign is greenish, being made with coal. Put side by side, no difference is at all noticeable. I mention these things for the guidance of amateur builders, so that they may not be deceived into believing that the foreign glass is the best, and the more expensive because the best.

A handsome pane of glass is as much deserving of care as a picture, and it is as easily injured at the hands of a careless cleaner. Nowadays people who can afford it employ the regular window-cleaning concerns which make a specialty of this business. The cost varies according to the number and character of windows to be cared for. It reaches in some cases as high as \$15 and \$25 a month. But it is economical where fine, costly windows are concerned, because the expert cleaner does the work perfectly, while the servant is apt to break, scratch or imperfectly clean the glass, besides which he or she is apt to fall from a window and make an unpleasant sensation.

To clean a window seems a simple operation. It is, too, but



"WOOD NOTES" WALL PAPER.

one must know how to do the work. A cloudy day is the best time to do the cleaning, or a day that is clear and dry, so that the sun does not strike the glass, and which would cause it to dry in streaks. Clean, soft water in abundance, plenty of clean and soft old rags, and a leather or chamois skin; these are necessary. Wash the windows down quickly, inside and out, and dry with the rags. Begin inside, finish outside. Some people use the leather for washing with. A little ammonia in the water is helpful where there is smoke, but be careful not to get too much in the water, as it will injure the paint. A wet day is bad for window cleaning; frosty one is worse. For common windows, say upstairs, kitchen, etc., a washing down with ammonia (least bit) and water, and washing off with clear,

then a rubbing dry with chamois, is all that is needed. For fine glass, rubbing to a polish with newspaper is recommended. Printers' ink is the polisher of the age. Newspaper is excellent for glass of any kind, and is commonly used for cleaning decanters, carafes and the like, saying nothing of the kitchen range. Another excellent way to polish window glass is to take a rag, dampen it with spirits of wine, and rub the glass briskly for a few minutes, and then polishing with a clean, dry leather.

Whiting is an old favorite. Fill a bag made of an old stocking, or piece of coarse muslin, or fine salt bag, with gilders' bolted whiting, and dust the glass generously; then rub off well with a slightly damp leather or rag, and polish with a clean, dry leather. This is especially good for new windows. If the workmen have done as they should when glazing the windows, there will be no marks of putty on the glass, which, when dry, are very difficult to remove. A cloth, dampened with spirits of turpentine, will remove putty stains. Spatters of paint should be wet with water and rubbed with a new silver dollar, or they may be removed with hot, sharp vinegar. To remove fresh putty stains is a simple thing, and yet many glaziers do not know the little trick. Wet a dust brush with clean, cold water and brush over the marks; they will readily disappear.

A good polish for cleaning windows or glass of any kind is made of whiting and soft soap, mixed, and kneaded into balls,

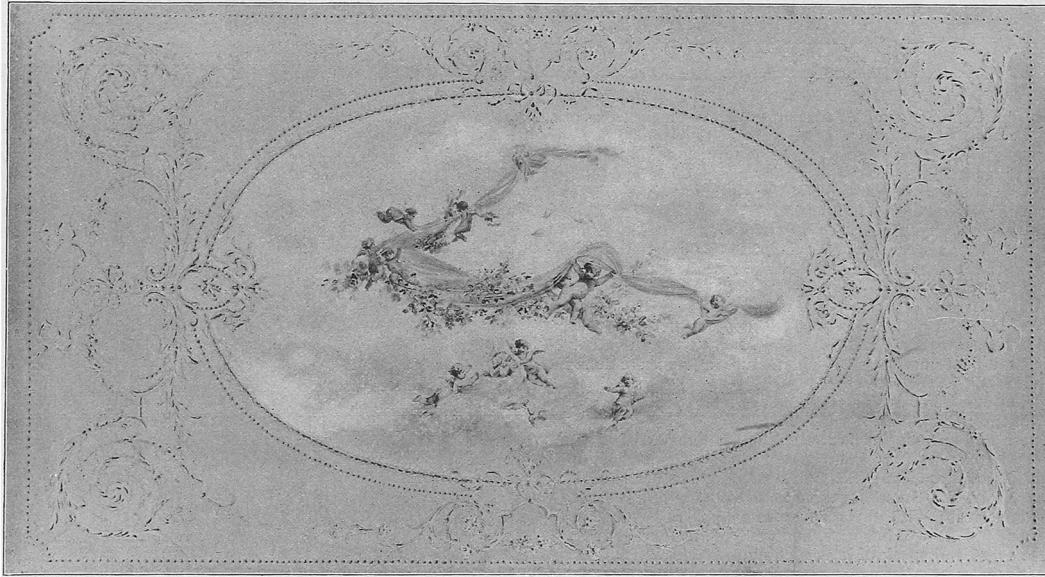
not only clear, but brilliant as well, and this comes of polishing.

It is important to dust windows well every day after sweeping the room, dusting not only the glass, but also all parts of the window. This is especially necessary in winter, when coal dust and gas are so bad. Gas covers the glass over with a dense film in a short time. It is not a pleasant task, cleaning windows in winter time, and hence by exercising care and carefully dusting off the glass each day washing will not need to be so frequently done as it otherwise would.

Apropos of this subject, to clean mirrors, first sponge them free from dirt, dry with a soft cloth, and when perfectly dry rub a little powdered blue over the glass, afterward polishing it with a soft old silk handkerchief. Soft newspapers will answer in lieu of the silk. Cloth will leave lint.

To prevent frost from forming on your windows in cold weather, apply a very thin coating of glycerine to the glass. This is especially useful to merchants for show windows.

To prevent sunlight from entering the windows—desirable sometimes, as in case of sickness—mix one ounce of powdered gum tragacanth in the well-beaten whites of six eggs, and apply. Bathroom and other windows may be obscured in various ways. Epsom salts, dissolved with diluted vinegar, and dabbed on with a brush, will make a remarkable imitation of hoar frost, and will last quite a while, especially if coated over



CEILING DESIGN IN APPLIQUE RELIEF AND FRESCO. BY GEORGE HALBERT.

being afterward dried in the sun. Another excellent polishing paste is made by cutting up fine two parts of castile soap in three parts of boiling water. After dissolution, add four parts prepared chalk, three parts Vienna chalk, and two parts finest tripoli. Stir this mixture well, form into balls or other shape, and let set. Still another formula is as follows: Three parts Castile soap, four parts boiling water, two parts jewelers' rouge, five parts prepared chalk, and three parts burned hartshorn. Mix and prepare as in the foregoing formula.

A cleaning compound much in use for show windows, and as useful for house windows, is prepared by moistening calcined magnesia with pure, deodorized benzine. Preserve in bottles that have glass stoppers. Use by putting a little of the mixture on a wad of cotton and rubbing on the glass.

To remove slight scratches from plate glass, first clean off the surface by gently rubbing with a pad of cotton wool; then cover the pad with cotton velvet charged with fine rouge. This will not only remove the scratches, but will also impart a great brilliancy to the glass, which should be the object whenever the cleaning process is pursued. Glass should be

with damar varnish. Boil a teaspoonful of rice in a pint of water for a half hour, then dash the solution on with a brush. This is a good temporary method. A concentrated solution of sulphate of zinc in water to which a little gum has been added gives a clever imitation of frost. A mixture of powdered white lead, varnish and turpentine, adding sulphate of zinc and acetate of lead for dryer, made very thin and laid on quite evenly with a wide brush, makes a good permanent job. It may be cleaned off with potash lye. To imitate ground glass, coat the glass with a mixture made as follows: Mastic, two drachms; sundarac, nine drachms; ether, twelve ounces; benzine, eight ounces. Another formula calls for equal parts of white lead and sacrum, and mixing with two parts turpentine and one of boiled oil. Slightly tint with blue. Apply by dabbing on gently with the tips of a bristle brush.

To clean off glass prepared in this manner use the dust brush frequently. When it becomes dirty or stained, soft tepid water, containing a little ammonia, may be used to wash it with. After this washing clean with pure water and rub or wipe dry.